

From: **Gary Ruskin** <[gary@usrtk.org](mailto:gary@usrtk.org)>  
Date: Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 9:36 AM  
Subject: Re: Quick question about a FOIA request  
To: **Gretchen Goldman** <[GGoldman@ucsusa.org](mailto:GGoldman@ucsusa.org)>

Thank you, Gretchen.

On Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 4:49 AM, Gretchen

Goldman <[GGoldman@ucsusa.org](mailto:GGoldman@ucsusa.org)> wrote:

Hi Gary,

My suggested language would be something like "correspondence pertaining to funding and other financial ties between Cornell and the below named entities." I understand why you would want to investigate this but it is an issue we need to be consistent on so our position would be that the ask has to pertain to funding and related stipulations only. Thanks.

Sent from my Galaxy S®III

----- Original message -----

From: Gary Ruskin  
Date: 03/02/2015 3:46 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: Gretchen Goldman  
Subject: Re: Quick question about a FOIA request

Hi Gretchen,  
Thanks so much for your reply. I really appreciate it.

We have no desire to infringe on academic freedom.

But how can you infringe on the academic freedom of a nonacademic unit?

Is there language you would suggest to add? Something like: "This is not a request for any materials related to ongoing academic research." Can you think of any better language?

In effect, the Cornell Alliance for Science does PR work for the agrichemical industry. See: <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2014/08/new-cornell-alliance-science-gets-56-million-grant>

It sure seems to me that such work -- essentially the use of the good name of Cornell for the interests of the agrichemical industry -- is a perfectly good thing to investigate via FOI.

Best,

Gary

Best,

Gary

Best,

Gary

On Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Gretchen Goldman <[GGoldman@ucsusa.org](mailto:GGoldman@ucsusa.org)> wrote:

Hi Gary,

Thanks for sharing it. First off, in the interest of full disclosure, I did my undergrad at Cornell. I've never heard of the Alliance for Science though.

Per our conversation before, I think we would again say this is too broad and needs to be focused on correspondence concerning financial ties only, as opposed to all correspondence, for us to be feel it is sufficiently narrow so as not to infringe on academic freedom. Let me know if any elaboration would be helpful.

Thanks,

Gretchen

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**From:** Gary Ruskin [mailto:[gary@usrtk.org](mailto:gary@usrtk.org)] **Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2015 2:35 PM **To:** Gretchen Goldman  
**Subject:** Quick question about a FOIA request

Gretchen,

Attached is a draft FOIA request for documents from something called the Cornell Alliance for Science. They appear to be a pro-agrichemical industry PR shop based at Cornell. As far as I can tell, they do no academic work whatsoever.

Could you please take a quick look at the attached draft FOI request to see if you have any concerns about it?

Thank you!

Best,

Gary

--

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